# Community College Finance: Challenges Faced, Solutions Sought

#### **Assembly Higher Education Committee**

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COMMUNITY COLLEGE LEAGUE OF CALIFORNIA



## **Issues Identified**

- Current funding mechanism is overly complex.
- Funding disparities among districts continue.
- Enrollment growth allocations impede student access.
- Noncredit rate has fallen behind the K-12 rate.
- Planning is difficult.
- Students are being negatively affected.



## **Principles**

- The following five tenets are most often brought up as missing from the existing funding formula.
  - Understandability
  - Predictability
  - Reliability
  - Stability
  - Equitability

## A framework for equalization



- Begin with the Dr. Dymally approach, with a basic allocation, plus an equalized marginal credit rate.
  - Incorporate changes to address concerns:
    - Modify the basic allocation:
      - Larger college basic allocation.
      - Basic allocation for CPEC-approved instructional centers.
    - Five-year equalization to bring all districts to within \$100 the second-highest marginal rate.
    - One-time permanent equalization.

## Current v. Proposed Formula



#### District A \$4,200 per FTES

Growth (generated by five components) variable rate per FTES

> Credit Base Revenue

#### District B \$3,800 per FTES

Growth (generated by five components)

variable rate per FTES

Credit Base Revenue

#### District A \$3,931 marginal rate per FTES

Standard Rate per FTES

Basic Allocation for District by Number of Colleges/Centers

#### District B \$3,931 marginal rate per FTES

Standard Rate per FTES

Basic Allocation for District by Number of Colleges/Centers

#### **Current Formula**

#### **Proposed Formula**



## Framework results

- Through this methodology, 68 out of 72 districts would receive equalization funds, which would total \$272 million (current dollars).
- Equalization would be complete after the infusion of funds, and there should be no need for ongoing equalization.
- Student access would be maintained while qualitatively improving community college programs.
- Categorical programs, other than Partnership for Excellence, are not affected.



## **Equal Access Initiative**

- Enrollment growth
  - Ensure adequate funding for student access needs with an infusion of growth funds to address immediate access crisis.
    - Avoid immediate displacement of CCC students by UC/CSU students.
    - Avoid elimination of access for unfunded FTES.
  - Explore more accurate and stable growth rate calculation.

#### Fees

 Allow districts to keep enrollment fee revenue for non-state supported students (over cap and nonresident students).



## Framework Advantages

### Advantages:

- No district loses funds. Every district benefits from one of the three components (equalization, growth, noncredit rate)
- Many system leaders are familiar with the concept.
- Relatively simple, while recognizing that scales and fixed costs are built into existing funding.
- Tackles equalization, noncredit and enrollment growth in one policy change.

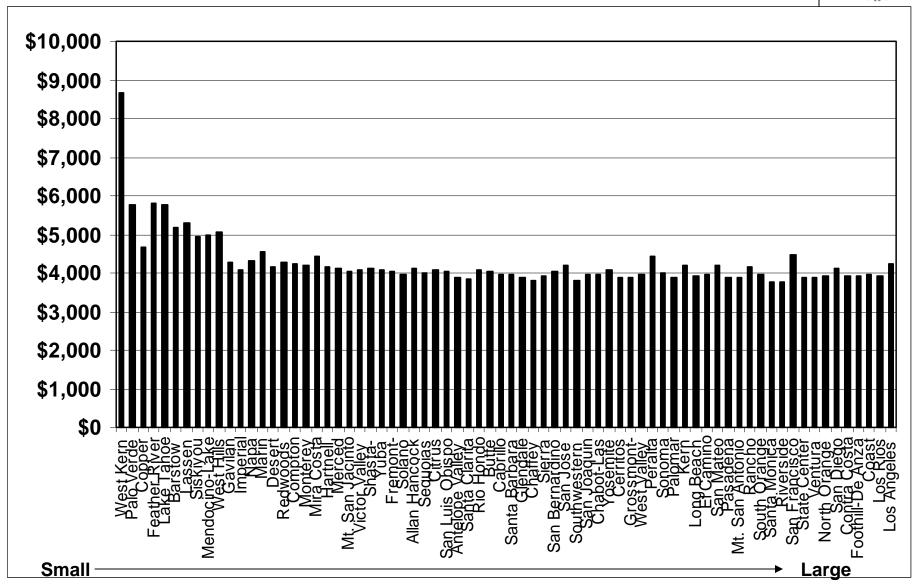


## Framework Disadvantages

- Disadvantages:
  - Any methodology may result in different expectations to individual districts.
  - Significant changes from existing system may make districts and constituencies uncomfortable.
  - The funding results would be nowhere near Real Cost of Education or 100% of standard under program-based funding.
    - In other words, the allocation method does not address the qualitative insufficiencies facing the system.

## Current Credit Rev. per FTES

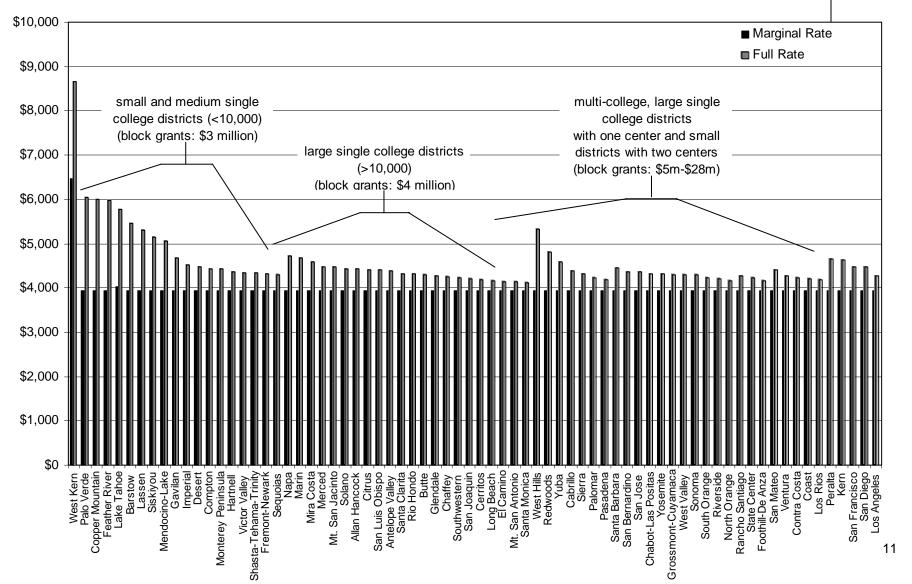




## Post-Equalization Rev. per FTES

#### Marginal and full rate







## **Enrollment Growth**

- Enrollment grew faster than state funding beginning in 2001-02
  - Fees had been lowered.
  - Tidal Wave II: UC, CSU campuses impacted.
  - Recession began; students seeking retraining.
  - Significant outreach through Partnership for Excellence, other programs.
- Over the last 18 months, program cuts, mandated cost increases, and the underfunding of enrollment growth has created a significant access gap. (CCCCO: 175,000 students – confirmed by Dept of Finance enrollment projection numbers)

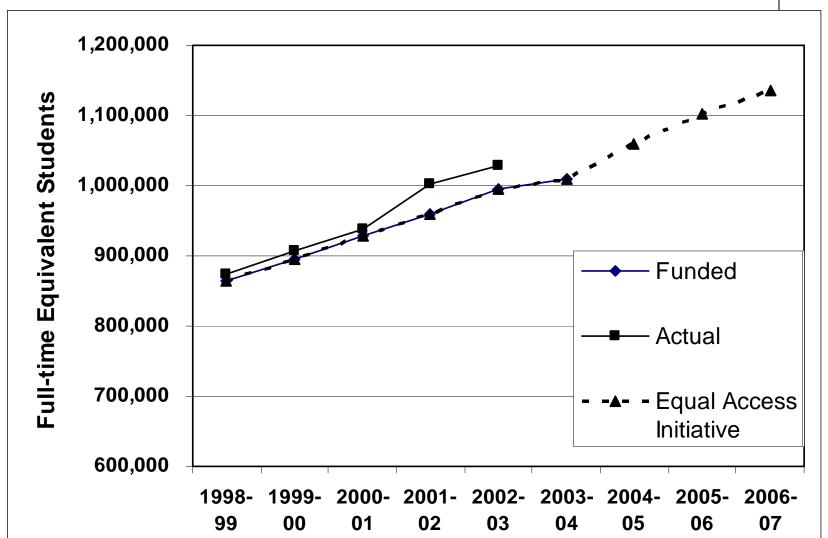


## **Enrollment Growth**

- Existing access gap of 175,000 students.
- At least 12,000 additional students will be redirected to community colleges from UC and CSU.
- Right now, dreams are being deferred. Immediate action is needed to ensure they are not denied.
- Proposal: Close the gap over two years through growth funding:
  - 5% in 2004-05
  - 4% in 2005-06
  - 3% through Tidal Wave II

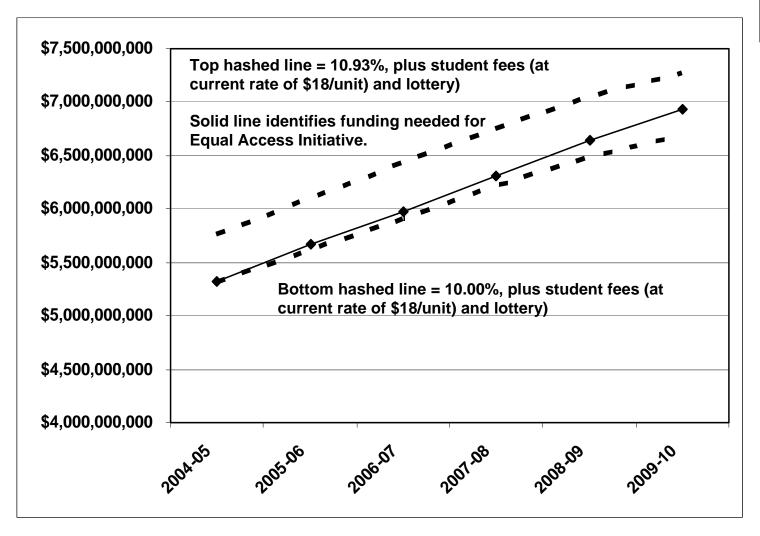


## **Funded Credit Enrollment**



## Proposition 98 and the Equal Access Initiative







## **Implementation Process**

- November-December:
  - Technical development
- January-March:
  - System consensus, legislative briefings
- April-June:
  - Statutory and budget act implementation
- **2004-2009:** 
  - Equalization implementation